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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICETRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tamaka et al.

Examiner: W. Lewis

Serial No.: 09/322,201

Group: Art Unit 3731

Filed: May 28, 1999

Dated: December 11, 2002

Docket: 2508(203-3453)

For: **SPECIALLY SHAPED BALLOON DEVICE FOR USE IN SURGERY
AND METHOD OF USE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 18 2002

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

- Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- A verified statement to establish small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	ADDT. RATE FEE OR	ADDT. RATE FEE
TOTAL	41*	MINUS 42**	=	X 9 \$	X 18 \$ 0
INDEP.	5*	MINUS 5**	=	X 42 \$	X 84 \$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				X 140 \$	X 280 \$ 0
				TOTAL	OR TOTAL \$ 0
				<u>ADDT. FEE</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>

* If the entry in Co. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The Highest No. Previously Paid For (Total or indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 11, 2002.

Dated: December 11, 2002

David M. Carter

David M. Carter

- Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 in the amount of \$_____. Two (2) copies of this sheet are enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ is enclosed.
- Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,


David M. Carter
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Attorney Docket: 203-3453 (2508)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shigeru Tanaka
Gary Ashley Stafford

EXAMINER: William W. Lewis

SERIAL NO.: 09/322,201

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 43-45.

43. (New) An apparatus for dissecting tissue to facilitate a laparoscopic surgical procedure in an anatomical region of a patient's body, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a balloon being inflatable to a shape suitable for the laparoscopic surgical procedure and the anatomical region of the patient's body in which the balloon is to be used, the balloon, when inflated, having a cylindrical non-tapered proximal portion and a tapered distal portion; and

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